



## Woodville Community Dog Training Centre

# WOODVILLE WOOF

JUNE 2023

### From the President - Leann Hoppo

Halfway through 2023! We've achieved a bit so far this year but there is always plenty more to be done.

Our Defibrillator has now been installed in our Clubrooms, with training underway for key Volunteers. Like most others, my hope is that it never needs to be used, but we'll all feel better having it there, just in case.

Our sincere thanks go to Mrs Val Macy and family, who utilised our kitchen facilities for a special Family Reunion earlier this year, and kindly raised money at that event to contribute to our Defibrillator purchase.

Thanks also go to local resident Mr Reg Potter for his kind donation of etchings entitled "Glasgow Dog Show" and "Home for Destitute Dogs" from an 1871 newspaper. The framed versions of these will find their way onto our clubroom's walls in the near future. Please feel free to come in and have a look!

Our Chief Instructor, Carolyn Robins is still busy recruiting Instructors, Aspiring Instructors and Class Assistants. Our hope is that over the remainder of this year, as more Instructors & Assistants are trained, class numbers can continue to be reduced. This will enable each learner to benefit by receiving more individual attention.

After the success of last year's Masterclass, another will be held later this year. Also, commencing at the end of our next Training Cycle, our Rally Instructors will teach some tricks to those completing Class 2, as a segue into Rally and Tricks, which are optional activities included in the cost of your membership.

Remember, Social Memberships are now also available and can be purchased at the shop window on Sunday mornings.

The long awaited barbeque area near the playground fence is now complete and is being utilised regularly by community members. Please feel free to make use of it.

### Inside this issue

From the President ....	1
How Is Your Recall ....	3
Sponsors.....	5

### COVID REMINDER

A number of our volunteers have immune compromised family or are themselves immunocompromised.

Committee has asked that all people attending the Shop or Café please continue to wear a mask and use the hand sanitisers provided

### Newsletter Items

Do you have something of interest you would like to share via the newsletter?

Or something you would like more information on?

Maybe you've seen a great dog article, or have photos to share, recipes for dog food?

Email suggestions to:

[newsleter@woodvilledogtrainin g.com.au](mailto:newsleter@woodvilledogtrainin g.com.au)

## From the President - Leann Hoppo (Con't.)

Our shop continues to expand, and do well with recent additions of natural products for use in dog immunity, grooming, anxiety and arthritis. We will continue to add fish/arthritis products to our range as prophylaxis for younger dogs and support for older dogs. One of our major suppliers has also just become the S.A. agent for more of these types of products in addition to Prime 100 products.

Don't forget about the Yellow Dog Project – a global scheme for some years now to use the colour Yellow to identify dogs who require more space than most. Some are shy, anxious, fearful, in training, arthritic, or recovering from illness or surgery and require more space. They are not usually aggressive. Most dogs are not party animals and do not always want to meet humans and other dogs. Yellow bandanas and leashes help to give them a choice, by indicating "I need Space". These can be purchased from the Rainbow Shop.

Please respect this, be alert for any dogs wearing anything yellow - remember not to approach these dogs without the knowledge and permission of their Guardian.

A reminder also, to get into the habit of checking the whiteboard in front of the clubrooms on Sundays to check which class you are in, who your Instructor is and your class location in the park. This is especially important on Week 1 of a new 4 week Training Cycle. As of this year, each class level is training at the same time, e.g. all Class 1's @ 09:30, all Class 2's @ 10:15 etc.

At the end of the current training cycle, times will be altered, but each class level will still train at the same time. Please ensure you pay close attention to your Instructor on Week 4 of the current cycle when being told of your new class time. SMS messages are no longer being sent for notification of class times.

As always, Volunteers are required, particularly in the Shop, Instructing/Assisting and setting up/packing up weekly. WCDTC is a non profit organisation, Volunteers are unpaid but fringe benefits apply. Please email [info@woodvilledogtraining.com.au](mailto:info@woodvilledogtraining.com.au) or ask at our shop window if interested.

Lastly, on a cold, wet winter's day, why not snuggle up and learn a lot more about what your dog is telling you every day? Dogs are continuously "talking" to us with their body language, but sadly, many of us are unaware and do not know how to "speak" the same language.

Why not have a look at the Dog Decoder App? Available for both IOS and Android phones for a once only cost of less than \$10! Quick to download, easy to use, and good for children too!

This app. contains a wealth of Dog Body Language information, a "dog reading" quiz, and 60+ illustrations of dog body language by world renowned animal illustrator, Lili Chin.

Dog body language can be very subtle and nuanced, easy to miss. This is one way you can strengthen your bond with your dog and hone your training skills by learning to speak their language. Good luck!

Stay warm and dry, see you on Sunday!

*Leann Hoppo*  
*President*

## HOW IS YOUR RECALL?

Teaching your dog a reliable recall is a worthwhile investment of your time. It will take time, patience and consistency but will make your life much easier, and that of your dog. Once you've learned the skills, you'll also be able to put them to good use with any subsequent or additional dogs you may have.

It is a good way of bonding with your dog, building trust, working as a team, learning together. It is also a way of helping to ensure your dog's safety, and once you're both doing your part reliably it's very liberating for both of you. You'll be able to relax at the park, the beach, etc., knowing that your dog will return to you when called. You can then let them off leash more often, and they're more likely to return, having learned you're not necessarily recalling them to take them home and end their fun!

Try to see it through your dog's eyes – If you put on their leash and take them away from their fun at the oval, beach, dog park, etc., every time you recall them, they'll be much less likely to come to you! By doing this you are negatively reinforcing them, which is the opposite of positive reinforcement, which we teach at Woodville. Would **you** willingly do something you know you'll be penalised for?

Reinforce them lavishly with praise, a treat, a game of tug, their favourite ball, a belly rub, etc., when they return to you. Whatever **they** find most reinforcing.

Remember to practice recalls often and when they return to you, reinforce them, put their leash on for a minute or so, then remove their leash, and let them go off running / playing / sniffing again. Repeatedly! Dogs learn by association. If you practise this regularly and consistently, your dog will learn that returning to you is worthwhile and usually doesn't spoil their fun.

Remember too, that sniffing, running, socialising at parks, beaches, etc., are exciting for dogs, they become aroused, and you are no longer their main focus. You are competing with the environment, so remember to have plenty of what **your dog** considers high quality reinforcers, e.g.: treats, toys, affection, etc.

The trick is to train them initially in familiar, non-distracting environments, and progress to more distracting environments as you both become more proficient.

Gated tennis courts are ideal for this, very few distractions, safe and relatively boring for dogs, so it's easier for you to get them focussed on you. A few things to bear in mind when training recalls:

- As with everything you teach your dog, recall needs to be "proofed", i.e.: practised repeatedly to hone both your skills and your dog's so you can be as confident as possible of getting whatever behaviour you have cued them for, in any scenario / location.
- **Never** recall your dog and then punish them, yell at them, or chastise them, etc. Don't loom over them to reinforce them when they return to you, some dogs find this confronting. These types of behaviours can "poison" the "come" cue, making it aversive to your dog. You should be their trusted safe haven, that's why they'll want to return to you!
- Don't recall your dog if you need to do anything unpleasant, e.g.: medicating, bathing, nail clipping, etc. Go and fetch your dog at these times so they don't form negative associations with the recall cue.
- Make sure your dog gets plenty of **physical and mental** exercise daily, otherwise they'll take the opportunity when off leash, and be harder for you to recall.

## How is your recall? (Con't.)

- Reinforce all check-ins from your dog, whenever they return to you or even glance at you, even if you didn't call them. This forms positive associations.
- When training, if you don't think your dog will come to you, (e.g.: if distracted or running away from you) don't call them to you. Set yourself up for success! Practise and perfect recalls in favourable conditions first, so your dog can then learn to return in more challenging situations.
- Be animated!! Wave your arms, jump, be exciting, be fun!! Give them a reason to want to return to you!!

Our sincere thanks go to Canine Principles for the following graphic:



Check out their Facebook page for other useful insights - [Canine Principles](#)

# WOODVILLE WOOF - JUNE 2023

We are grateful to our **Ambassador - Mayor Angela Evans** and also **our sponsors** for their ongoing support

## Findon Veterinary Clinic

221 Grange Road, Findon  
Phone: 8347 3444



## Seaton Vet Centre

342 Tapleys Hill Road, Seaton  
Phone: 8155 5200



The Findon Veterinary Clinic, and the Seaton Vet Centre, are owned, and run, by Dr Ian Hogben. They are both staffed with the same experienced vets, and nurses, so you know you'll get the same great treatment at either facility. However, the Seaton Vet Centre is larger, so it does have extra facilities available.



## super Dog Boutique

***A well-groomed dog is a happy dog.  
At Super Dog Boutique we keep your dog looking, and feeling great with a variety of professional grooming services.***

- ◆ We have experience with all dog breeds, and sizes.
- ◆ Our team will give individual attention to your dog, and pamper them from head to tail.
- ◆ Recommended by vets.

### **Services We Offer:**

- Dog Bathing & Blow Dry
- Dog Clipping & Groom Out
- Nail Clipping
- Pampering of your special family member



**2010 & 2011 Winner  
BEST GROOMER - Hilary Thomas**

***Caring for local pets for over 25 years.***

***Come and see Hilary and her friendly staff at  
Shop 9/574 Tapleys Hill Road, Fulham  
Phone: 8355 4599 or mobile: 0409676074***



Please check our website (under  
'Our Ambassadors and Sponsors')  
to find out more.